

RJHS Board Update

March 19, 2025

Upcoming Events:

[RJHS Week at a Glance](#) - please reach out to Kim if you'd like to have this emailed to you weekly

03/24 - 03/28 Spring Break

04/09 7th Grade Field Trip to Lincoln's Tomb, etc.

04/10 Rocket Crew Leaders Meeting with Mr. Lauber - LL

04/11 Midterm Qtr. 4

Current Enrollment for 2024-2025

7th Grade - 148

8th Grade - 145

Student Leadership

Over 215 students attended the RJHS dance planned by our student council! We are super excited about the number of students who attended this event. We held the event at RJHS on Friday, February 14 which was a half day for students followed by a Monday off, making the number of students in attendance even more impressive.

Our March Rocket Crew lesson was planned by our ORIGINAL Rocket Crew Leaders who are now Sophomores! They used a March Madness/basketball theme and discussed topics such as fairness and grit. Students ended the activity by writing some of their favorite quotes on basketballs which will be displayed in our hallway.

Ms. Viola has coordinated a monthly Big Buddy experience by partnering 8th-grade students with 6th-graders who have been identified as students who could benefit from a positive peer mentor. Each month our students meet with their 6th-grade buddies to encourage them, prepare them for the responsibilities and expectations at RJHS, and to provide support to them.

Mrs. Rezba's 3rd quarter Leader in Me class worked on a project to bring some clubs to RJHS. Their vision has a variety of clubs that can take place during Learning Lab. The plan is to try this a couple of times during 4th quarter and see if it's something we'd like to do long-term next year.

Looking Ahead

Mr. Lauber and Ms. Viola have been working on setting up the master schedule for 2025-2026 in Skyward. Information will go out in the next few weeks to our current 7th graders and to current 6th graders to pick their electives. With the help of Dr. Johnson, we are also looking at restructuring some of our electives to assist teachers with the planning of activities and avoid overlap between different classes.

IAR/ISA Testing 2025

Our students and staff successfully completed IAR testing during the week of March 4. We quickly adapted to the new testing platform and celebrated the week with special spirit days and special snacks. With the help of Mr. Kelley and Mr. Nelson, we organized a trip for each grade level to spend an afternoon bowling. Overall the week went very well. We are currently finishing up any make-up testing.

Athletics & Activities

Boys Basketball - The 7th grade boys basketball team lost their Sectional title game. They finished the year 18-8. The 8th grade boys team lost in the Regionals. We are very proud of how our JH boys basketball

players represented us both on and off the court. Thank you to Coach Heberling for coaching both the 7th and 8th grade teams this year.

Volleyball - Both our 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams lost in the Regionals. The 7th grade lost in the Regional Title and the 8th grade lost in the Regional semi-finals. Both teams played very well and gave the Regionals Champions all they could handle going 3 sets in each of their respective games. Thank you to Coach Wacaser and Coach Hawkins for all their hard work and dedication to the girls. Our 7th-grade girls were honored by the IESA on their social media platforms for the sportsmanship they displayed in checking on a player from the other team who was injured during play in their regional game.



Illinois Elementary School Association

March 4 at 12:27 PM · ⚙️

🌟 Good Sport Report 🌟

During a recent volleyball game, an Effingham player was unfortunately injured early in the match and had to be taken out, remaining sidelined for the rest of the evening. Despite the competitive nature of the game, after Rochester secured their win, the entire Rochester team took the time to come over to Effingham's bench and offer their support. They surrounded the injured player and gave them a heartfelt hug, a gesture that meant so much to the player and lifted their spirits for the remainder of the evening.

This act of sportsmanship was a beautiful reminder that volleyball is not just about competition, but also about showing empathy and respect for others. The kindness displayed by the Rochester team made a lasting impact, and it was deeply appreciated by both the injured player and the Effingham team. It's these small, meaningful gestures that help build a positive atmosphere in sports, highlighting the true spirit of the game. 🙌

[#GoodSportReport](#) [#Sportsmanship](#) [#Respect](#) [#Kindness](#)



Wrestling - We had 5 JH wrestlers represent us at the State wrestling tournament in Dekalb. The wrestlers represented RJHS well and we look forward to watching them grow in the off season. Coach Ramsey has done a good job raising the standard in the program.

Track - Boys and Girls track have started practicing for their upcoming season. We currently have 116 sixth through eighth grade students out for track. Coach Johnson and Coach Nelson have done a great job of getting their creative juices flowing to make sure practice runs smoothly and they have done a great job. We look forward to seeing our teams compete during the Spring season. The girls track team was fortunate to have Serena Bolden and Mahogany Jenkins from the University of Indiana stop by and talk to them. Serena is a 9x medal IHSA state medal winner, 4x State Champion and she ran track and LSU where she finished her Bachelors Degree in pre-Law. Serena is currently running at the University of Indiana while she finishes her law degree. This was an amazing opportunity for our track athletes to have a Q and A with two very successful track athletes.



Miscellaneous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim & Matt